

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16, 21 and 22 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 17-20 and 23 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 17-20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Komatsu et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0181857 A1, hereinafter Komatsu). Claims 1-16, 21 and 22 were allowed.

Applicants express appreciation for the indication that Claims 1-16, 21 and 22 contain allowable subject matter.

Responsive to the rejection of Claims 17-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Komatsu, Claims 17-20 and 23 have been canceled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are allowable and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

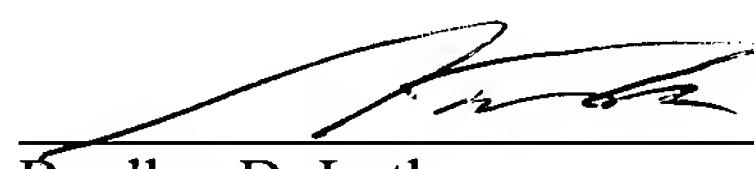
Respectfully submitted,

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